Amendments to Specification

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 5, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

Although the correction values stored in the ERC fields represent ~~discreet~~ discrete correction amounts, the amount of correction need not be precisely read in order to usefully alter the position error signal read from a track 136 during track following. However, conventional disk drive systems utilizing embedded run-out correction typically discard embedded runout correction values that are not correctly detected by a detector included as part of the channel 138. Accordingly, previous systems have treated embedded runout correction values, which can tolerate at least some variance between the value as originally written and the value as detected, in the same way as user data, which generally must be discarded if errors in the reading of such data occur. Therefore, such conventional methods result in inefficiencies and/or the loss of useful data.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 5, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

As a further example of a system that includes a communication channel susceptible to dominant errors but that tolerates some variance between an intended value and a received value, consider a digital voice communication system. In general, a human listener is capable of comprehending the meaning of another's speech, even though small portions of the conversation are lost, for example, due to transmission errors. However, breaks in an audible signal due to such errors are annoying and can make a conversation difficult or impossible to follow. Furthermore, typical

communication channels used for transmitting voice data are susceptible to dominant errors. In addition, such systems must operate with high efficiency in order to be economical. Therefore, communication systems used for the transmission of voice data could benefit from a coding strategy that minimized the effect of dominant errors in the communication channel, while reducing or eliminating the need to transmit redundant code.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 6, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

As mentioned above, modulation and error control coding schemes require the ~~recordal~~ recordation and transmission of redundant information in addition to the user data. Although this redundant information allows for the reduction, detection or correction of errors in the transmission of user data, the storage and/or transmission capacity of the system is reduced. In addition, errors that are not detected result in values that may be very different from the intended value. Furthermore, errors that are detected but are not corrected may result in a code word being discarded, with no benefit being derived from the transmission of the discarded data. Therefore, it would be advantageous to provide a coding strategy that was highly efficient, and that minimized the effects of errors. In addition, it would be advantageous to provide a system that could be implemented at low cost, and that was reliable in operation.

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Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 10, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Figs. 7A-7F illustrate groups of user values corresponding to groups of interdependent code words illustrated in Figs. 6A-6F;